

Millbrook Meadow and Mill Pond Restoration

Progress Report 3

April 15, 2014

Restoration Design Team Begins Planning and Site Analysis: Milone & MacBroom, Inc., is now under contract to Rockport DPW for Phases 1 and 2 of the Millbrook Meadow and Mill Pond Restoration Project. Milone and MacBroom, Inc.(MMI) has set up a Project Center for this project on their website which provides the public with up to date information on activities and progress related to the park Restoration Project. To access the Project Center go to www.miloneandmacbroom.com and go to Featured Projects>Project Center.

Site Analysis and Planning Underway: Milone & MacBroom, Inc., has begun the data collection and existing conditions analysis for Phases 1 and 2 of the Restoration Project. Once survey, soil sampling and wetland delineation are completed and analyzed the team will move into the schematic phase of the project. Elements from the Schematic designs will then be incorporated into a comprehensive Master Plan Report, which will present "the most current, creative, feasible, and cost effective solutions." The comprehensive Master Plan, will be completed in July.

Field Work to begin in mid-April: Winter weather has delayed MMI's field work until mid-April. The wetland delineation will be taking place the week of April 21st with the Mill and Frog Pond sediment sampling taking place then and in the subsequent weeks, along with other on-site field work, including topographic and bathymetric surveying, site analysis of plantings, hydrology, site utilities and other studies.

Public Information Meeting to be held May 21, 2014: The site analysis and feasibility studies should be substantially complete by this coming May 21, when a public information and visioning session will be held.

Eagle Scout Trail-blazing Project Completed: Sayles Kasten of Rockport, an Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scouts of America, has completed a trail-blazing project on the east side of Mill Pond. Beginning on the northeast corner of Mill Pond at the open area near Mill Dam, the 3' wide trail was cut through thick understory plants and runs approximately 125' along the east edge of Mill Pond before cutting uphill to the granite block wall of historic Union Cemetery. The project took place on April 5, 2014 and involved 15 Scouts, as well as parents and adult volunteers.

This is the first time this overgrown area has been accessible in several decades. The trail traverses over 35' of delineated wetland on 2"x8"x12' untreated boards that are fastened together. Otherwise, the trail's surface is covered with a 4" layer of wood chips. The project was approved by the Rockport Conservation Commission, the Rockport's Department of Public Works, and the Rockport Millbrook Meadow Committee, a joint sponsor.



Fundraising Continues: Once the Master Plan report is complete (Summer 2014), the project will move into the Design Development phase. This phase will advance the conceptual elements and principles explored in the Master Plan into more detailed design drawings. The illustrative graphics prepared in the Master Plan will be refined and drafted into AutoCAD drawings, eventually becoming Construction level documents. The goal is to complete design development drawings in the Fall 2014, with Construction drawings and Specifications completed over the Winter 2014-2015. Environmental permitting is expected to be submitted in the Fall 2014. Acquiring construction permits and producing bid packages for construction procurement should be achievable by June 2015. It should be understood that this project may take a phased approach to construction; however, the vast majority of funds needs to be secured by June 2015.

Fundraising Progress: To date, just over \$322,500 has been raised, including the following:

1. Lura Phillips Trust (Gunilla Caulfield, Trustee) donation of \$60,000 received 1st quarter of 2013.
2. Rockport ATM [Annual Town Meeting] 2013 Article I (Voter approved) Appropriation of \$60,000 received 3rd quarter of 2013.
3. Rockport Community Preservation Committee award grant of \$100,000 (Voter approved at Rockport FTM [Fall Town Meeting] 2013) received 1st Quarter 2014.
4. Lura Phillips Trust (Gunilla Caulfield, Trustee) donation of over \$102,500 to be formally accepted on April 15, 2014, by the Rockport Board of Selectmen, received 2nd quarter of 2014. The Lura Phillips Trust is now depleted.

We anticipate that currently, the total costs for the Restoration Project may exceed \$1,000,000. The original budget of \$790,000 did not include potable water and electrical services. An amended budget for the Restoration Project should be available in June 2014.

Rockport Millbrook Meadow Conservancy Formed: A non-profit organization, the Rockport Millbrook Meadow Conservancy, has been formed by the Town's Millbrook Meadow Committee and the Friends of Millbrook Meadow as a separate private organization, which has a mission of raising funds to support the capital projects aimed at restoring Millbrook Meadow and Mill Pond in Rockport and, eventually, supporting maintenance of the restored parklands. The Conservancy has its own Board of Directors and works through the Essex County Community Foundation, the conservator 501.c.3 organization that handles all donations from private individuals, as well as grants and gifts from corporations and other entities, private and public. The web address of the Rockport Millbrook Meadow Conservancy is www.millbrookmeadow.org; there is a direct link from the Conservancy website to the Essex County Community Foundation website to facilitate accepting donations.

Other Fundraising Activities: The Millbrook Meadow Committee is currently engaged in a number of outreach and fundraising activities, including the manning of tents and booths during public festivals and other events, including Rockport's Motif #1 Day and the Rockport Garden Club's annual tour of gardens.

- An application to the Bruce J. Anderson Fund for \$12,000 in funds has been submitted.
- An application to the Community Preservation Committee for \$250,000 in CPA funds has been submitted for selection and approval at Rockport FTM 2014.
- Application via warrant articles is planned for Rockport ATM 2015 early next year.
- A professional grant-writer has joined our team as a volunteer, and is currently researching potential grants for applicability to the restoration project.
- An experienced fund-raiser has volunteered to help plan a comprehensive fund-raising strategy.
- A brochure describing the project has been completed and is being printed at this time.

The Plan Going Forward: We anticipate submitting an amended budget within the next few months (June 2014), which will take into account the recommendations of our MMI design team. We will have a public information and visioning session, scheduled for May 21, 2014, under our belt, as well as having substantially completed the site analysis and feasibility studies for the Restoration Project.

Public Communication: Progress reports will continue to be presented to the general public on the Town of Rockport website in the Millbrook Meadow Committee page as findings warrant. This is Progress Report #3. Our Facebook page is updated frequently. Go to Facebook.com and type in Millbrook Meadow and Pond, Rockport, Massachusetts. Good communication with the public is a priority.

<http://www.townofrockport.com> - to reach Town of Rockport, MA website

<http://www.millbrookmeadow.org> - to reach Rockport Millbrook Meadow Conservancy website

<http://www.miloneandmacbroom.com> - to reach Milone & MacBroom, Inc. website for up-to-date information on the Millbrook meadow and Mill Pond Restoration Project. At the website's Home Page, click on Featured Projects panel, then click on Project Center. Millbrook Meadow & Mill Pond Restoration, Rockport, Massachusetts will come up - click on **view more** to find information on this project.